

amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, 10 angels swearing I was right would make no difference."

History has vindicated President Lincoln, and now, as War Secretary Edwin Stanton said, he "belongs to the ages."

Through solemn, humble, and steadfast leadership, he guided our Nation through the crisis—the horrific period of conflict between Fort Sumter and Appomattox. Sustained by faith, he stood on principle to preserve our country, to correct a nation's moral failing, and to lead a government of, by, and for the people ever closer toward a more perfect Union.

President Lincoln gave his life—his last full measure of devotion—for our country, and he will forever be remembered for his heroic work to preserve our United States of America.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, which is the day that symbolizes, more than 3 months into the year, that women's wages have finally caught up to what men were paid last year.

Women deserve equal pay for equal work. It is outrageous that in 2015 a woman is still paid less for the same job that a man does. Pay discrimination is wrong. It hurts millions of hard-working families, and it hinders the growth of our economy.

That is why I and many of my colleagues have reintroduced the Paycheck Fairness Act—to ensure that women earn the same pay as men for doing the same work, to ensure that our wives, our sisters, our daughters, our granddaughters are treated fairly in the workplace for doing the same job that the man sitting right next to them does.

Our country should be building an economy that works for everyone so that women and their families can save, buy a home, send their kids to college, and save for retirement. Equal pay for equal work should not ever be a partisan issue. It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will allow a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives for this very important legislation.

IN MEMORY OF LAUREN HILL

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I come to the floor to speak today.

Last Friday, Lauren Hill, a basketball player at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, succumbed in her battle with DIPG, a rare form of inoperable brain cancer.

Following her tragic diagnosis, Lauren became an inspiration to an

awful lot of people. After miraculously and courageously playing in her first college basketball game last November, she dedicated her remaining days to combating this dreadful disease, raising more than \$1 million for pediatric cancer research.

While we are obviously saddened by the news of Lauren's passing, I would prefer to focus on just how blessed we have been to witness Lauren's courage and her resiliency and her grace in the face of insurmountable odds. She has touched and inspired our community and, in fact, our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am also deeply grateful to Lauren's family for their willingness to share her story with the rest of us. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them as they grieve the loss of such a remarkable young woman.

ASPEN INSTITUTE PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Olympic College for being named a top 10 finalist for the Aspen Institute Prize for Community College Excellence.

Olympic College has earned a reputation as a place that opens doors to opportunity. Whether creating opportunities for future healthcare practitioners, leading a world-class apprenticeship program with the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, or the multitude of other great programs it provides, OC prepares folks for success in school and in life.

This recognition from the Aspen Institute is a testament to OC's president, David Mitchell; to the college's talented faculty and staff; and, importantly, to the students. It is also evidence of the incredible partnerships OC has developed with local employers, with 4-year universities, and with the community.

The record of success is astonishing. Get this: OC has the highest graduation rate of any community college in the State of Washington as 90 percent of students who enter a trades program at OC complete it, and 100 percent are placed in jobs.

I am proud to represent some amazing community colleges, including OC, that have been proven successful in getting people ready to take that next step, whether that is starting a 4-year degree or finding a quality job. I extend to them my congratulations.

FAIRNESS TO VETERANS ACT

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as Congress begins to take up the critical and long overdue discussion of long-term infrastructure investment, it is

important that we utilize one of our greatest resources—our Nation's veterans.

Right now, there are over 380,000 veteran-owned construction firms across the United States, including thousands in my home State of Pennsylvania. These veteran-owned businesses are primed to play a vital role in the rebuilding of our Nation's roads and bridges. However, right now, when it comes to Federal transportation contracts, we are failing to recognize their full potential.

That is why I have introduced the bipartisan Fairness to Veterans Act in an effort to level the playing field by providing veterans access to existing preferences. Fairness to veterans is a simple idea that says, if any group is going to get special treatment from our government, it should be those who have served in our Armed Forces.

I am proud to have the support of veterans advocacy organizations like the American Legion, local veterans groups, and a bipartisan band of lawmakers in advancing this legislation. I encourage each one of my colleagues to join us as a cosponsor and ensure that we are fighting for and are fair to our Nation's veterans.

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THE NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS REPAIR

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, 45 days from today, temporary funding for the surface transportation trust fund expires. Despite the fact that we have 140,000 bridges that need repair or replacement, 40 percent of the road surface needs substantial investment, and a \$70 billion backlog in our mass transit systems for a state of good repair, the support drops to zero in 45 days. We need an unimaginable amount of money to fund that for the next 5 years. We need \$120 billion.

Where could we find \$120 billion? Well, tomorrow the Republicans are going to repeal the remains of the estate tax. That is that two one-hundredths of 1 percent of estates that are worth more than \$10 million, under the Republican plan, will pay no taxes when they leave that money to their kids—no taxes. It costs \$270 billion to give that tax relief to two one-hundredths of 1 percent of the families in this country.

How about we spend that money rebuilding the Nation's infrastructure, put hundreds of thousands of people to work, benefit all of America with better roads, with safe bridges, with transit systems that don't kill people because of their state of bad repair? Even the wealthy might benefit from that, although they don't use the system because they fly above it in their helicopters and they don't notice from the backseat of their limousines.